

TO THE PUBLIC.

THERE is at present levied annually, by act of Parliament, upon the Merchants, Shopkeepers, and Tradesmen of the City of Edinburgh, 1250 *l.* Sterling, for the purpose of maintaining the City Guard, which 1250 *l.* not being sufficient, an additional sum of about 150 *l.* Sterling is annually paid out of the City's revenue.

Many complaints have been made of the insufficiency of that protection; and especially that, by the present Regulations, there can be no Centinels allowed to the extended Royalty, and other parts of the City remote from the High Street;—in fact, there are only 14 Centinels placed every night.

Application has lately been made by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council, to Parliament, for leave to bring in a bill to remove the business of killing or slaughtering of cattle, out of the Royalty. It is, therefore, submitted to the Public, whether this bill may not vest in the Magistrates and Council, a power (if at any time it shall be found expedient to exercise it) of employing the foresaid 1250 *l.* tax, to maintain a body of 50 or 60 stout Watchmen, 40 or 50 of whom to act as Centinels during the night, in the various quarters of the City; and ten of the Watchmen, with some acting Constables, to be a constant guard, day and night, in the Guard-room, or a Round-house. The expence of the Constables and Watchmen may cost 800 *l.* or 900 *l.* Sterling; and the remainder of the 1250 *l.* may be very usefully employed in additional lamps to the City. Indeed, in the mean while, a considerable part of this sum must be employed in a provision for the present Captains of the City Guard; but still there will remain sufficient fund for adding 100 lamps to the present establishment, by which means every close in the City will have the benefit of at least one lamp.

If this plan is adopted, it is proposed to employ the stoutest and best men of the present Guard for Watchmen.

It will also occur, in the consideration of this measure, that the adoption of it may prevent, in any future time, an application to the Legislature for a tax to defray the expence of the lamps, &c. which is the practice in other great towns, and which expence the Magistrates and Council have hitherto defrayed out of the City's revenue; but, in a short time, the revenue will not be able to afford so heavy and growing an expence.

EDIN. Feb. 21. }
1781. }